United Nations A/66/L.32

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
15 December 2011

Original: English

Sixty-sixth session
Agenda item 15
Culture of peace

Australia, Bangladesh, Belarus, Brazil, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Libya, Myanmar, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Russian Federation, Seychelles, Trinidad and Tobago and Viet Nam: draft resolution

Promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1] in particular the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion,

Recalling its resolution 65/138 of 16 December 2010 on the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace and its other related resolutions,[2]

Recalling also its resolution 64/14 of 10 November 2009 on the Alliance of Civilizations, in which it welcomed efforts to promote greater understanding and respect among people from different civilizations, cultures and religions,

Bearing in mind the valuable contribution that interreligious and intercultural dialogue can make to an improved awareness and understanding of the common values shared by all humankind,

[1] Resolution 217 A (III).

[2] Resolutions 36/55 by which it proclaimed the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief, 56/6 on the Global Agenda for Dialogue among Civilizations, 57/6 on the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, 2001-2010, 57/337 on the prevention of armed conflict, 58/128 on the promotion of religious and cultural understanding, harmony and cooperation, 59/23 on the promotion of interreligious dialogue, 61/17 on the International Year of Reconciliation, 2009, 62/155 on human rights and cultural diversity, 63/113 on the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, 2001-2010, 63/181 on the elimination of all forms of intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief, 64/81 on the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace and 65/5 on World Interfaith Harmony Week.

11-64174 (E) 191211

Please recycle

Noting that interreligious and intercultural dialogue has made significant contributions to mutual understanding, tolerance and respect, as well as to the promotion of a culture of peace and an improvement of overall relations among people from different cultural and religious backgrounds and among nations,

Recognizing that cultural diversity and the pursuit of cultural development by all peoples and nations are sources of mutual enrichment for the cultural life of humankind,

Emphasizing the importance of culture for development in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, and in this regard noting the close links between cultural diversity, dialogue and development,

Noting the various initiatives at the national, regional and international levels for enhancing dialogue, understanding and cooperation among religions, cultures and civilizations, which are mutually reinforcing and interrelated,

Welcoming the establishment of the King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue in Vienna, initiated by King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia, on the basis of the purposes and principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and acknowledging the important role that the Centre is expected to play as a platform for the enhancement of interreligious and intercultural dialogue,

Acknowledging the tenth anniversary of the 2001 Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, and welcoming the commemoration of the International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures in 2010 and the adoption by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its thirty-sixth session of a resolution proclaiming an international decade for the rapprochement of cultures (2013-2022),

Encouraging activities aimed at promoting interreligious and intercultural dialogue in order to enhance social stability, respect for diversity and mutual respect in diverse communities and to create, at the global level, and also at the regional, national and local levels, an environment conducive to peace and mutual understanding,

Recognizing the contributions of the media and of new information and communications technology to changing peoples' perceptions of different cultures and religions, including through the promotion of dialogue,

Reaffirming the importance of sustaining the process of engaging all stakeholders, including young men and women as relevant actors, in interreligious and intercultural dialogue within the appropriate initiatives at various levels, which aims to challenge preconceived ideas and improve mutual understanding,

Recognizing the commitment of all religions to peace and the need for voices of moderation from all religions and beliefs to work together in order to build a more secure and peaceful world,

1. *Reaffirms* that mutual understanding and interreligious and intercultural dialogue constitute important dimensions of the dialogue among civilizations and of the culture of peace;

2. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on intercultural, interreligious and intercivilizational dialogue;[3]

3. *Notes* the continuing work of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on intercultural and interreligious dialogue and its efforts to promote dialogue among civilizations, cultures and peoples, as well as activities related to a culture of peace, and welcomes in particular the adoption of its new programme of action on a culture of peace and non-violence and its focus on concrete actions at the global, regional and subregional levels;

4. *Reaffirms* the solemn commitment of all States to fulfil their obligations to promote universal respect for, and observance and protection of, all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[1] and other instruments relating to human rights and international law, the universal nature of these rights and freedoms being beyond question;

5. *Welcomes* the efforts by the media to promote interreligious and intercultural dialogue, encourages the further promotion of dialogue among the media from all cultures and civilizations, emphasizes that everyone has the right to freedom of expression, and reaffirms that the exercise of this right carries with it special duties and responsibilities and may therefore be subject to certain restrictions, but that these shall be only such as are provided by law and necessary for respect of the rights or reputations of others, protection of national security or of public order, or of public health or morals;

6. *Also welcomes* the efforts to use information and communications technology, including the Internet, to promote interreligious and intercultural dialogue, and in this regard acknowledges with appreciation the establishment by the Non-Aligned Movement of the Interfaith Dialogue e-Portal pursuant to commitments made during the Special Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement on Interfaith Dialogue and Cooperation for Peace and Development, held in Manila in March 2010;

7. *Encourages* Member States to consider, as and where appropriate, initiatives that identify areas for practical action in all sectors and levels of society for the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, tolerance, understanding and cooperation, inter alia, the ideas suggested during the High-level Dialogue on Interreligious and Intercultural Understanding and Cooperation for Peace, held in New York on 4 and 5 October 2007, including the idea of an enhanced process of dialogue among world religions;

8. *Calls upon* Member States to consider, as appropriate and where applicable, interreligious and intercultural dialogue as an important tool in efforts aimed at achieving peace and the full realization of the Millennium Development Goals;

9. *Recognizes* the efforts by relevant stakeholders to foster peaceful and harmonious coexistence within societies by promoting respect for religious and cultural diversity, including by engendering sustained and robust interaction among various segments of society;

---

[3] A/66/280.

10. *Acknowledges* the active engagement of the United Nations system with faith-based organizations in the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue and in bringing together people of different faiths to discuss common issues and objectives;

11. *Also acknowledges* the important role of civil society, including academia, in fostering interreligious and intercultural dialogue, and encourages support for practical measures that mobilize civil society, including building capacities, opportunities and frameworks for cooperation;

12. *Invites* Member States to further promote reconciliation to help to ensure durable peace and sustained development, including through reconciliatory measures and acts of service and by encouraging forgiveness and compassion among individuals;

13. *Recognizes* that the Office for Economic and Social Council Support and Coordination in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat plays a valuable role as focal point within the Secretariat on the issue, and encourages it to continue to interact and coordinate with the relevant entities of the United Nations system and coordinate their contribution to the intergovernmental process;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution.